

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 04114 011304Z POSS DUPE
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 AID-05
CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 EA-10 FRB-03 IO-13 OPIC-03
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01 /115 W
-----123308 021502Z /75

O 011154Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8084
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4114

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, AF
SUBJ: RECOGNITION OF NEW REGIME IN AFGHANISTAN

REF: A) STATE 110080, B) KABUL 3397

1. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH IRANIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONCERNING PROBLEM OF RECOGNIZING NEW REGIME IN AFGHANISTAN. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER ZELLI TOLD ME AFTERNOON MAY 1 THAT, SINCE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS NOT YET RETURNED FROM RABAT AND SINCE SHAH OBSERVING MILITARY MANEUVERS IN SOUTH, HE DID NOT EXPECT HAVE GUIDANCE UNTIL MAY 2. HOWEVER, COURT MINISTER WOULD SEE SHAH IN SHIRAZ EVENING MAY 1 AND MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING FURTHER AT THAT TIME.

2. IN MEANTIME, WE HAVE PROVIDED ZELLI WITH SUMMARY OF CRITERIA USED IN OUR RECOGNITION PRACTICE AND STRESSED LACK OF POLITICAL CONTENT IN OUR POLICY. ZELLI EXPRESSED HOPE U.S. WOULD "COORDINATE" ITS RECOGNITION ACTION WITH IRAN AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 04114 011304Z POSS DUPE

PAKISTAN.

3. I HAVE JUST SEEN REF B WHICH INDICATES THAT AMB ELIOT HAS DISCUSSED RECOGNITION WITH OECD REPS IN KABUL BUT NOT RPT NOT WITH REPS OF IRAN AND PAKISTAN. WHILE I AGREE WITH VALIDITY OF CONCERTING OUR ACTION WITH OECD NATIONS, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IRAN AND PAKISTAN ARE THE NATIONS MOST

LIKELY TO BE SENSITIVE TO "UNSEEMLY HASTE" ON OUR PART.

4. OUR OWN READING OF IRANIAN INTENTIONS SUGGESTS THEY WILL PROBABLY AGREE TO RECOGNITION OF THE NEW REGIME WITHOUT INTERPOSITION OF POLITICAL CONDITIONS. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED IN FIRST PARAGRAPH THIS MESSAGE, IT IS DOUBTFUL THEY WILL BE PREPARED TO ACT BY MAY 3, WHEN THE OECD REPS IN KABUL HAVE SCHEDULED THEIR NEXT MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT.

5. I APPRECIATE THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER PROBLEMS WHICH THE OECD REPS ANTICIPATE IF THEIR POSITIVE ACTION IS UNDULY DELAYED. HOWEVER, IT SEEMS PROBABLE THEY WILL ENCOUNTER MOST OF THOSE PROBLEMS NO MATTER HOW SOON THEY ACT AND IT IS DOUBTFUL THE NEW REGIME EXPECTS RECOGNITION BY SUCH AN EARLY DATE AS MAY 4.

6. I THEREFORE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT DEPT DELAY ACTION ON RECOGNITION OF NEW REGIME UNTIL AMB HUMMEL AND I CAN HAVE A DECENT INTERVAL FOR SUBSTANTIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE IRANIANS AND THE PAKISTANIS. IF EITHER OR BOTH OF THESE GOVERNMENTS DECIDE TO RESORT TO UNCONSCIONABLE DILATORY POLICIES, WE COULD, IN THAT UNLIKELY EVENT, BREAK RANKS WITH THEM AND ACT FIRST. IT ALSO SEEMS TO ME THAT THE OECD REPS, MOST OF WHOM HAVE PRECIOUS LITTLE INTERESTS TO DEFEND IN AFGHANISTAN, COULD AFFORD A REASONABLE DELAY. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 TEHRAN 04114 011304Z POSS DUPE

EVEN IF SOME OF THEM MIGHT WISH TO ACT MORE PRECIPITOUSLY, I FEEL WE CAN AFFORD TO LET THEM GO AHEAD WITHOUT US AND RISK NO GREAT LOSS OF PRINCIPLE.

7. IN SHORT, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT ALL OF US (WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF PEKING) ARE GOING TO RECOGNIZE THE NEW REGIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE ANYWAY. WE HAVE FAR MORE TO GAIN BY MAKING A DELIBERATE AND SERIOUS EFFORT TO CONSULT WITH IRAN AND PAKISTAN THAN WE HAVE TO LOSE IF THIS ACTION CAUSES US A FEW DAYS' DELAY IN THE DELIVERY OF OUR DIPLOMATIC NOTE. CONSEQUENTLY, IF THE DEPT APPROVES THE TEXT OF KABUL'S DRAFT NOTE, I WOULD LIKE AUTHORIZATION TO DISCUSS IT WITH THE IRANIAN OFFICIALS (WHILE AMB HUMMEL DISCUSSES IT IN ISLAMABAD) WITHOUT RPT WITHOUT THE DEADLINE OF A SPECIFIC DATE SCHEDULED FOR ITS DELIVERY. WE COULD INDICATE THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DELIVER IT SOONEST IF IRAN AND PAKISTAN CONCUR. SULLIVAN

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